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# Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2210

April 25, 1985

**RECORD YEAR  
FOR USSR  
IMPORTS**

In the July 1984/June 1985 marketing year, Soviet grain imports are expected to surpass the 1981/82 record by more than 13 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Grain import requirements will remain high through midyear as limited 1984/85 Soviet feed supplies were further taxed by a severely cold winter even by Soviet standards. Good snow cover protected winter grains and soil moisture conditions are the best in at least 3 years. However, because of the late arrival of spring weather, crop sowing got off to a slow start. (For more information, call Kathryn Zeimetz, 202-447-8654.)

**U.S. EXPORTS  
TO USSR**

The value of U.S. agricultural exports to the USSR almost doubled from calendar 1983 to 1984 as wheat and corn exports reached a record \$2.6 billion and cotton a record \$167 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. exports were aided not only by improved relations with the USSR, but also by reduced Soviet grain and cotton production. However, there was a sharp drop in U.S. soybean exports to the USSR. (For more information, call Kathryn Zeimetz at 202-447-8654.)

**EAST ASIA  
EXPORTS DOWN  
BY BILLION**

U.S. agricultural exports to East Asia - Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong - are forecast at \$9.6 billion in fiscal 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although exports are down from last year's record \$10.6 billion, this is the second year that East Asia has surpassed Western Europe as the most important U.S. market. The decline in export value comes from weaker commodity prices, slower economic growth in the region, and heightened competition from other exporters, notably the People's Republic of China.

**BEE MITE  
REGS REMOVED**

All Federal regulations restricting interstate movement of honey bees and certain items from areas quarantined for honey bee tracheal mites have been removed, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Recent surveys show the mites have become widespread in the country. Given the extensive range already attained and the migratory nature of the honey bee industry, it's believed Federal quarantine measures will not effectively prevent additional spread of the honey bee tracheal mite. However, there are model quarantine regulations for states to use, if they wish, to protect their own package and queen bee operations.

SALES TO  
USSR

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1984-85 marketing year, which began for corn on Oct. 1. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the second year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement now total 18,118,300 tons, of which wheat is 2,887,200 tons and corn is 15,231,100 tons.

INDIA WHEAT  
TO SOVIET

The USSR has expressed interest in purchasing an additional 1 million tons of wheat from India, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Last Dec., India sold the Soviets 500,000 tons for shipment in the first half of 1985. These new sales will likely be shipped after July 1.

FAREWELL,  
GYPSY MOTH?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is testing an environmentally safe method for eradicating isolated outbreaks of the gypsy moth. It's based on the sterile male technique. But in the case of gypsy moths, laboratory-reared male moths are only partially sterilized. Instead of being released, they're mated in the laboratory with normal, laboratory-raised females. The eggs are harvested and released in the forest where they hatch into normal-looking caterpillars that eat their fill of leaves. But after emerging as adults, these moths are totally sterile. Wild female moths that mate with them produce eggs that will not hatch. Goodby gypsy moth. Maybe.

INTERCHANGE  
OF 35 MILLION  
ACRES

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior announced that public hearings and a 30-day public comment period will be held this summer on the proposal to interchange about 35 million acres of national forests and public lands. The hearings are planned for mid-June. Details such as time and location of each statewide hearing have not yet been developed. An announcement will be made when the hearings are scheduled.

CATTLE  
ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed April 1, 1985, for the slaughter market in the 13 major cattle feeding states totaled 9.68 million head, up 4 pct. from a year earlier and up 6 pct. from April 1, 1983, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cattle on feed April 1 in the 7 monthly States totaled 7.81 million head, 3 pct. above April 1, 1984 and 8 pct. above April 1 two years ago. (For statistical information, call 202-447-6880.)

CHANGES IN  
GRAIN  
INSPECTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed changes in regulations detailing the kinds of services and types of official grain inspection certificates provided by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. Proposed changes, published in the April 19 Federal Register, include: Eliminating the use of multiple certificates when portions of a shipment do not meet inspection requirements...and making stowage exams before loading of outbound, intracompany grain barge shipments voluntary instead of mandatory. Send comments by June 18 to: Lewis Lebakken, Jr., USDA, Federal Grain Inspection Service, Room 9667-South, Wash., D.C. 20250. Or call 202/447-1738.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

"Soil Stewardship Week" ... Charles Boothby, Exec. V.P., Nat'l Assn of Conservation Districts, talks about the history of Soil Stewardship Week and the theme for this year's observance "Tomorrow Together". DeBoria Janifer interviews. (366)

"SCS - Fifty Years of Service" ... Donald Pendleton, Soil Conservation Service, takes a look back at the dust storms of the 1930's and their affect on the land, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Soil Conservation Service. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (367)

"Agricultural Outlook" ... USDA economist Keith Scearce takes an overview of the current agricultural outlook for 1985, including beef and pork supplies, wheat exports and the consumer price index for food. Vic Powell interviews. (368)

"Snowpack Study" ... USDA hydrologist Keith Cooley talks about the importance of snowpacks in determining the amount of water available for farming and ranching. Vic Powell interviews. (369)

"National 4-H Conference" ... George Kandt, 4-H member from Manhattan, KS, describes his involvement with 4-H over the years, and offers his view on how the administration is handling the plight of the farmer. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (370)

CATFISH

Domestic production of farm-raised catfish during March totaled 18.3 million pounds round weight, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of 25 pct. from March 1984. The March average price paid to growers was 73 cents per pound, 4 cents above February and 1 cent above March last year. The March average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.63 per pound for ice pack and \$1.65 for frozen fish. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-2123.)

EGGS AHEAD  
OF CHICKENS

The U.S. laying flocks produced 5.93 billion eggs during March 1985, up 2 pct. from the 5.79 billion produced a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. March egg production per 100 layers for the total laying flock was 2138 eggs compared with 2084 eggs for March 1984. The chickens are obviously trying harder. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-2123.)

MOIST OUTLOOK  
FOR WEST

Increased snow and rain in the West in March improved the outlook for adequate water supplies for some of the region this year, according to the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. Despite the mixed pattern of rain and snowfall, the overall water supply still is expected to be adequate to excellent because reservoir storage remained excellent in every State in the West except Montana.

OFF MIKE

Rich Hawkins (KRVN, Lexington, NE) participated in a panel discussion at the recent NAB meeting in Las Vegas. Subject was "What it takes to get into farm broadcasting." Rich says the main message the panel tried to put across was "Not what it takes to get into farm broadcasting but what it takes to stay in farm broadcasting." His fellow panel members were Tom Thompson, manager, WHO, Des Moines, IA; Glenn Kummerow (KATZ Radio, Chicago, IL); and Gordon Bennett, sales manager, KRVN. Gordon had to rush back to Lexington to join his brother Jerry Bennett (KRVN, Lexington, NE) for their father's funeral. He died suddenly, April 18 ... Art Sechrest (WJBC/Farm Radio Illinois, Bloomington, IL) writes to report that WJBC's news department received the 1985 National Headliner award, one of the top journalism awards in the U.S. presented by the Atlantic City Press Club. Art can be proud, because the award was for "...coverage of breaking news, agricultural coverage, sports and features." And, speaking of winners, UPI's Sonja Hillgren, known to many broadcasters for her daily radio commentary program, "Farm Focus," received the Newspaper Farm Editors of America's highest award, the "J. S. Russel Memorial Award", for her reporting on agriculture and food issues on Capitol Hill. She also won first place in feature writing. Our congratulations! ...We received an appeal from Max Stewart (WSMI, Litchfield, IL) to remove his name from a mailing list. He was receiving two sets of the weekly mailing of major speeches and stories. As anyone who works with mailing lists knows, sometimes it seems nearly impossible to get someone taken off a list (or, in this case, half a list). We hope we're successful this time. Which also prompts us to remind anyone else who is receiving duplicate mailings of any USDA informational materials to let us know. We don't like sending out two of anything to one person anymore than you like getting them ... We promise to talk about the NAFB Summer Meeting next week.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1456...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) It's spring gardening time and on this edition of Agriculture USA Brenda Curtis talks to Extension Horticulturist Rick Heflebower about the do's and don'ts of home gardening.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1145...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Turkey industry; European Community; EPA studying ag chemicals.

CONSUMER TIME #938...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Buying Tom Turkey; Plant doctors; Bringing fruit into the U.S.; Supermarket changes; Foreign florals.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tuesday, April 30, Crop and weather, Agricultural Prices; Wed, May 1, Poultry slaughter; Fri, May 3, Dairy products--annual. Dial the USDA National News Line 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.

  
JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief  
Radio and Television Division